

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling one or more pumps in a pump sump with which each pump comprises a signal generator which switches on the pump, and each pump subsequent to its running ~~if firstly is firstly~~ automatically blocked by changing its switching value at which the pump is switched on by the signal generator from an initial switching value to a second switching value so that the same pump is prevented from being directly activated when again reaching said initial switching value, and depending on the running of the further pumps in the pump sump is released again.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1,~~ A method for controlling one or more pumps in a pump sump with which each pump comprises a signal generator which switches on the pump, and each pump subsequent to its running is firstly automatically blocked by changing its switching value at which the pump is switched on by the signal generator so that the same pump is prevented from being directly activated when again reaching said initial switching value, and depending on the running of the further pumps in the pump sump is released again, with which- wherein for each pump subsequent to it to its operation ~~the fluid-~~ a fluid level threshold value at which the pump is started is firstly increased proceeding from an initial threshold value and depending on the running of the further pumps in the pump sump is reduced again.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1, with which the~~ A method for controlling one or more pumps in a pump sump with which each pump comprises a signal generator which switches on the pump, and each pump subsequent to its running is firstly automatically blocked by changing its switching value at which the pump is switched on by the signal generator so that the same pump is prevented from being directly activated when again reaching the initial switching value, and depending on the running of the further pumps in the pump sump is released again, wherein a fluid level threshold value for each pump is reduced in steps by a predefined value after the running of a further pump.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 3, with which~~ wherein the reduction of the of said fluid level threshold value is effected according to a geometric sequence.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 3, with which the~~ wherein said fluid level threshold value after the operation of a further pump is in each case reduced to a level which is dependent on the number of the previously run pumps.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 5, with which the~~ wherein said fluid level threshold value in each case is reduced to a level which corresponds to

$$x + \Delta x \cdot \frac{1}{n}, x + \Delta x \cdot \frac{1}{n}$$

wherein x corresponds to the initial threshold value, Δx the amount by which the which said fluid level threshold value has been increased with respect to the initial threshold value, and n the number of previously run pumps.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~with which~~ wherein each pump ~~comprises a~~ comprises means for detecting ~~the a~~ number of pumps applied in operation in the pump sump.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, ~~with which~~ wherein each pump by way of a sensor detects the running of a further pump and with this detects ~~the said~~ number of applied pumps.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~with which~~ wherein in each pump there is provided a level sensor ~~and in particular a pressure sensor~~.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1, with which~~ A method for controlling one or more pumps in a pump sump with which each pump comprises a signal generator which switches on the pump, and each pump subsequent to its running is firstly automatically blocked by changing its switching value at which the pump is switched on by the signal generator so that the same pump is prevented from being directly activated when again reaching said initial switching value, and depending on the running of the further pumps in the pump sump is released again, wherein each pump after its own running sets the value n for ~~the a~~ number of said one or more pumps to $n = 1$ and increases the value n after each running of a further pump by 1.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1, with which~~ A method for controlling one or more pumps in a pump sump with which each pump comprises a signal generator which switches on the pump, and each pump subsequent to its running is firstly automatically blocked by changing its switching value at which the pump is switched on by

the signal generator so that the same pump is prevented from being directly activated when again reaching said initial switching value, and depending on the running of the further pumps in the pump sump is released again, wherein the pump automatically detects a condition in which no further pumps are arranged in the pump sump, and automatically lifts their blocking.

12. (Currently Amended) A pump with comprising a signal generator ~~and a~~ and control means for activating the pump, wherein the control means comprises a ~~means for detecting the operation of further pumps in the same pump housing,~~ detector for detecting the operation of at least one other pump in the same pump sump, a blocking function which blocks the pump by changing its switching value from an initial switching value to a second switching value at which the pump is switched on so that the same pump is prevented from being directly activated when again reaching the initial switching value, and a release function which releases the pump again depending on the operation of further pumps in the sump pump.

13. (Currently Amended) A pump according to claim 12, ~~with which~~ wherein the control means ~~comprises a~~ comprises means for detecting the number of pumps in a pump sump.

14. (Currently Amended) A pump according to claim 12, ~~with which the switch is~~ wherein said pump comprises a level switch ~~and in particular is a pressure sensor.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A pump according to claim 14, ~~with which the~~ wherein said blocking function increases ~~the~~ a threshold value of ~~the~~ said level switch and the release function reduces ~~the~~ said threshold value of ~~the~~ said level switch.

16. (Currently Amended) A pump according to claim 15, ~~with which~~ wherein the control means is designed in a manner such that the threshold value in each case after detecting the running of a further pump is reduced in steps by a predefined value.

17. (Currently Amended) A pump according to claim 14, ~~with which~~ wherein the means for detecting the operation of the further pumps ~~in a~~ in said pump sump accesses signals of the level switch.

18. (Currently Amended) A pump according to claim 12, ~~with which~~ wherein the control means is integrated ~~into the~~ into said pump.

19. (Currently Amended) A pump with a signal generator and a control for activating a pump with an initial switching value, wherein said control comprises a detector for detecting the operation of at least one pump in the same pump ~~housing~~ sump, a blocking function which blocks the pump by changing its switching value from said initial switching value to a second value and a release function which ~~releases~~ changes said second switching valve to release the pump ~~again depending on~~ in response to the operation of further pumps.

20. (Previously presented) The pump according to claim 19, wherein said control comprises a detector for detecting ~~the~~ a number of pumps in a pump sump.

21. (Previously presented) The pump according to claim 19, wherein said pump comprises a level switch comprising a pressure sensor.

22. (Currently Amended)—~~The pump according to 21~~ A pump with a signal generator and a control for activating a pump with an initial switching value, wherein said control comprises a detector for detecting the operation of at least one pump in the same pump sump, a blocking function which blocks the pump by changing its switching value from said initial switching value to a second value and a release function which changes said second switching valve to release the pump in response to the operation of further pumps;
wherein said pump comprises a level switch comprising a pressure sensor ; and
wherein said blocking function increases a threshold value of said level switch and the release function reduces the threshold value of said level switch.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The pump according to claim 22~~ A pump with a signal generator and a control for activating a pump with an initial switching value, wherein said control comprises a detector for detecting the operation of at least one pump in the same pump sump, a blocking function which blocks the pump by changing its switching value from said initial switching value to a second value and a release function which changes said second switching valve to release the pump in response to the operation of further pumps;
wherein said pump comprises a level switch comprising a pressure sensor ;
wherein said blocking function increases a threshold value of said level switch and the release function reduces the threshold value of said level switch; and
wherein said control is designed in a manner such that said threshold value in each case after detecting the running of a further pump is reduced in steps by a predetermined value.

24. (Previously presented) The pump according to claim 21 wherein said detector for detecting the operation of the further pumps in a pump sump is responsive to signals of the level switch.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The pump according to claim 19~~ A pump with a signal generator and a control for activating a pump with an initial switching value, wherein said control comprises a detector for detecting the operation of at least one pump in the same pump sump, a blocking function which blocks the pump by changing its switching value from said initial switching value to a second value and a release function which changes said second switching valve to release the pump in response to the operation of further pumps;

wherein said control is integrated into the pump.

26. (New) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein said level sensor is a pressure sensor.

27. (New) The pump as recited in claim 14, wherein said level switch is a pressure sensor.